

IV. REMARKS

1. The disclosure and claim 23 have been amended as requested. It is therefore submitted that they are no longer objectionable. In addition claim 4 has been amended to correct an obvious error.

Bar-David admittedly discloses iterative channel estimation, meaning that feedback from data estimation or data decoding is used to obtain a refined channel estimate. However, Bar-David fails to disclose combining such iterative channel estimation to iterative signal equalisation.

The concept of combined iterative channel estimation with iterative signal equalisation appears in the pending independent claims in "equalizing the signal by using said updated estimate and said feedback information" in claims 1 and 15, and requiring both the channel estimator and the signal equalizer to be responsive to feedback information in the two last features of claim 20. The advantage of making both signal equalisation and channel estimation iterative is that this way more reliable reception results can be obtained without having to resort to, e.g., increasing transmission power.

Since the above limitations are not in Bar-David, the rejection of claims 1-3, 14, 20 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn.

Further, since these features are not suggested by the reference, these claims are not obvious in view of it.

Similarly, the remaining references (including the admitted prior art) fail to disclose the above features. In particular, Desperben and Smith only disclose certain details of decoding and feedback generation, and are not pertinent to the general idea of

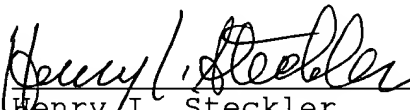
combining iterative channel estimation with iterative signal equalisation.

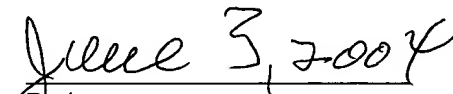
Thus, combining any of these references with Bar-David does not result in the present invention. Hence, the rejection of the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Henry I. Steckler
Reg. No. 24,139



Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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